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Combat Observer EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS : Initials: UNITED STATES ARMY : DATE 12 J Headquarters, VI Corps APO 46

: Auth: OG, TOUSA: DATE 12 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: Observer's Report No. 57 (Battle Experiences, 14th AD)
(German Tactical Use of Bearchlights in a Ground Role)
(Infantry Training Principles)

- : Chief, Combat Lessons Branch, G-5, Headquarters, Buropean Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 887, U. S. Army
- l. Pursuant to instructions which place me on duty as combat observer with VI Corps, the following report is submitted in triplicate.
- 2. Material for this report was obtained by personal contact with 6-2 and 6-3 Sections, VI Corps.
- 3. Battle Experiences, 14th AD: See Incl Number One .-G-3 Section, VI Corps.
 - 4. German Tactical Use of Searchlights in a Ground Role:
- Observations Recommended counter measures: See Incl Number Two. 4-8 Section, VI Corps.
- 5. Infantry Training Principles: See Incl Number Three. G-3 Section, VI Corps.

Note: In my report No. 47, dated 3 January 1945, I included copies of Training Memorandums published by the 36th Inf Div. These Memorandums were well written and contained a lot of valuable information for training of combat muits. The VI Corps, as you can see by inclosure number three, has reproduced the Training Memorandum and issued them to the units of the Corps.

Colonel, Infantry Combat Coserver

Information copy to Commanding General, VI Corps without incls

3 Incls:

Incl No. 1(Battle Experiences, 14th AD)
Incl No. 2(German Tactical Use of Searchlights in a Ground Role)
Incl No. 2(Infantry Training Principles)



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Combat Observer EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (Initials: UNITED STATES ARMY Headquarters, VI Corps APO 46

11111111 SECRET Auth: CG, ETOUSA: DATE 11 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: Observer's Report No. 55 (Improper Security In Villages)

Chief, Combat Lessons Branch, G-3, Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 887, U. S. Army

- 1. Pursuant to instructions which place me on duty as combat observer with VI Corps, the following report is submitted in triplicate.
- Material for this report was obtained by personal interview with Colonel H. L. Luongo, CO, 222nd Inf Regt, Brigadier General Winn, Acting Arty Officer, 79th Inf Div and from information furnished by PW Interrogators and by personal knowledge of the instances outlined in this report.
- 5. Improper Security in Villag es: During the past several weeks there has been instances where units have been surprised, captured or surrounded while bivouacked in or defending a town or Village. In several cases the majority of the unit surprised have been taken prisoner by the Germans and in other cases the unit was rescued by other friendly troops. In investigating the reasons for the above it has brought out the following facts:

 That the majority of troops so surprised are new

to combat.

b. Failure to post all-round security thus allowing the enemy to infiltrate from the sides or rear.

c. Lack of alertness on the part of the security

elements. C. Failure to maintain tactical unity of elements of platoons and companies, that is, the units have been broken up in order to obtain suitable sleeping quarters and dispersed throughout the village instead of being kept together as a

fighting unit. Failure to utilize available weapons for defensive 6.

action. Failure to have proper defensive artillery fires

planned to assist in breaking up an enemy attack.

The inability of units to distinguish the friendly from the hostile elements within the town or village.

h. Failure to have anti-tank teams or AT defense set-

up to neutralize the few enemy tanks generally supporting a One or two enemy tank usually small group of enemy Infantry. demoralize an entire company.

Failure to have proper communications between units occupying the village or town so that proper alert of enemy attack can be sounded and maximum coordination obtained.

The following is a few of the instances where our troops have been captured or surrounded and rescued by friendly troops: In all examples the name of the units are withheld.

were sleeping and the Germans wasked into the town unopposed and captured our troops, arms, and a considerable number of vehicles. Later some of the passage were captured wearing the shoes, combat clothing, and overcoats of the unit surprised. The PWs stated that the unit did not have security posted.

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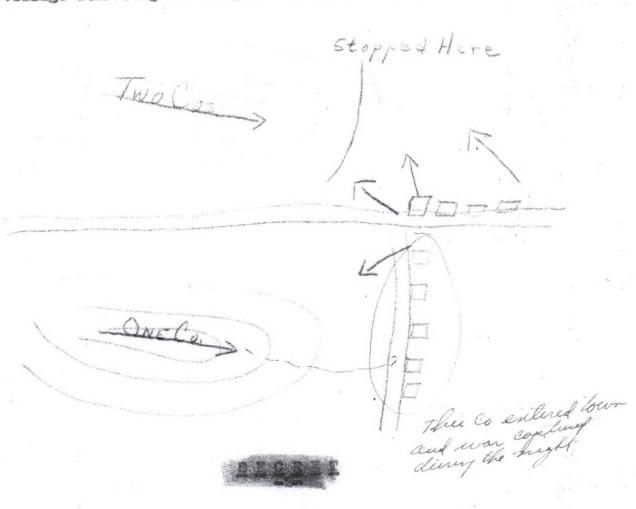
into the town and surrounded a company of troops new to combat. This company was rescued by friendly troops the fellowing day. One officer and fifteen men were found hidden in the basement of a house without having provided for their own defense.

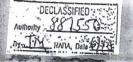
Becrenthal: A company was surprised and surrounded but managed to fight off enemy attacks until rescued two days later by friendly troops.

Wingen: Elements of a Bn was surprised and captured. The enemy, reported to be about 500, was in turn surrounded by three Bn of friendly troops. (All Bns new to combat). Due to lack of alertness the majority of the enemy escaped during the night in groups of from 20 to 40 without being fired upon. When the town was recaptured the following day, between 150 to 200 friendly troops were rescued and about 65 enemy PWs captured. - Combat Observer with VI Corps.

men being surprised in a village and to facilitate our defense we centralize our forces in groups not smaller than a platoon. The platoon are responsible for their defense. It would be of great advantage to us if when we go into a town for semeone to tell us that all of the Nazis had been cleared from the town. We are new to combat but we have learned the hard way the importance of everyone knowing where all of our weapons are located. Time should be taken to see that all weapons are properly sited for defense. Colonel H. L. Luongo, CO, 292nd Inf Regt.

5. Brig Gen Winn's Comments: A Bn was attacking a village utilizing two ridges leading into it as follows:





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The one company entered the town just before dark. It failed to post proper security and the entire company was captured during the night in small groups by the enemy. We shouldn't scatter our units in small groups but should keep Bns more or less intact so that they can hit a coordinated blow. Many times our companies while fighting in towns and woods are from 2 to 3 kilometers apart. I do not believe that platoons should ever be more than 200 yards apart. We should always have a reserve within easy supporting distance. Brig Gen Winn, Acting Arty Officer, 79th Inf Div.

Note: The above on the lack of security in villages and towns is submitted at the suggestion of Colonel Charles Palmer, Chief of Staff, VI Corps. He feels that any information that will assist our troops in preventing their being surprised by the enemy will be of great value especially to troops new to combat. - P. T. Heffner, Combat Observer, VI Corps.

PETE T. HEFFNER, JR Colonel, Infantry Combat Observer

Information copy to Commanding General, VI Corps

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SECRET

Combat Observer EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS Initials: 6774 UNITED STATES ARMY Headquarters, VI Corps APO 46

. SECRIST CG. ETOUSA: : Auth: DATE 7 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: Observer's Report No. 51 (Contact) (Supply) (Posit Fuze) (Glose Air Support) (Combat Tips and Reminders) (G-2 Periodic Report, VI Corps)

Chief, Combat Lessons Branch, G-3, Headquarters, Ruropean Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 887, U. S. Army

1. Pursuant to instructions which place me on duty as combat observer with VI Corps, the following report is submitted in triplicate.

- 2. Material for this report was obtained by personal in-terview with Lt Col C. M. Sagmosn, Ex Off, 315th Inf Regt, 27th Inf Div; Major Carl D. McGuire, FA S-3 and Lt Col J. H. Harrison PA CO, Solet FA Bn, 14th AD; Major Paul A. McVag FA, S-3 and Major James A. Roming, Air Officer, 6th FA Group; Major Leon C. Smith, Inf Air Support Section, 79th Inf Div and by contact with G-3 Section, 3rd Inf Div. + H-2 sect PCorps
- 3. Gentact: We were able to maintain contact with two of our companies that had been cut off by the enemy for two days by contacting the 14th AD artillery and having them use cub plane to drop batteries for the RGA 300 Radio. The batteries were wrapped in a German overcoat and other clothing and a blanket was used for a parachute. The drop was a success.

Supply: When a junction was made with the force cut off the supply road remained under enemy small arms fire so we used medium tanks during the night to carry supplies to the two companies. - Lt Col C. M. Sagmoen, Ex Off, Sl3th Inf Regt.

4. Comments on Use of the Pozit Fuse: We fired 50 rds using the Pozit fuse against enemy personnel at ranges between 8000 and 9000 yds. No duds and one high burst were reported. The height of the burst were uniform and excellent. We think We think it is great stuff. We like to use it when we can't use the M54. We have had difficulty with the M54 due to the large number of different lot numbers which caused non-uniform time of burning. The Pozit is excellent except for the time it takes to prepare it for firing. If we have plenty of time and are going to stay in a position it is okay but if we have prepared rounds for firing and then we have to move it delays the move because we have to take them spart before moving. You can shoot the Pozit Tuze at its maximum range and still get good burts. -Major Carl D. McGuire FA, 3-3, 501st FA Bn, 14th AD, and Lt Col J. H. Harrison FA CO, 501st FA Bn, 14th AD.

We fired a night mission, 52 rds Pozit fuze, observed by plane on Dec 30, 1944 against an enery supply dump and docks in the vicinity of Karlsruhe. Ranges; supply dump 1400 yas, docks 1350 yeas. The bursts appeared to be at a uniform height. No rounds were observed going off before they reached the targets. We think the Pozit is excellent and would like to use more of them. We fired the above with 155mm How's. - Major Paul A. McVeg FA S-3 and Major James A. Romann. Air Off, 6th FA Group.

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5. Glose Air Support: The following information was furnished by the 79th In: Div.

a. In this Division the Air Sipport Party consists of one Major, a 299 radio with crew of six FM's, netted with army for receipt of results from and transmitted of information to the air fields. In addition their are two pilots, rotated every two weeks, with a VMF radio and crew of five, for control of close support missions in direct support of this Division. The control section is located with the G-2 - G-3 sections with the VMF radio remoted, likewise a speaker is connected in the G-2 section in order that pilot observations and results may be heard.

b. At the present time no flights are being controlled by forward controllers in this Division. The effort of XII TAO is limited to 15% for this Corps and is being used entirely for prearranged - prebrifed targets combined with armed reces sweeps.

c. In the early part of this campaign, flights have called back for additional air borne flights to aid them in the destruction of a target. This occurred several times while being supported by KIX TAC.

d. In this Division the forward controller has always operated from the Division CP and moves with the Division CP. The Division is very air-minded and has had very good success with only a few unfortunate incidents of bombing and strafing of friendly installations.

e. The present arrangement of one VHF radio with the Division CP is sufficient for the successful control of close support missions.

f. At the present time Corps has one I-5 cub equipped with VFF for the vectoring and leading in of fighter-bombers. Coe of these with each Division, operating from the artillery cub strip and under Division control would be very advantageous.

g. Army Air Support Section is kept fully informed of this Division's situation and intentions by the Air Support Officer through Air Support Channels. This information is consolidated and passed on to the Ground Liaison Officer's at the fields for dissemination to the flying personnel.

h. To the best of my knowledge, rocket firing aircraft have never been requested nor have they operated in this sector. - Major Leon G. Smith, Enf, Air Support Section.

6. Combat Tips and Reminders: See Incl Number Cas. Furnished by 6-3 Section, 3rd Inf Div.

7 G-2 Periodic Report: See Incl Number Two. Furnished by G-2 Section, VI Corps.

PETE T. HEFFNER, JR Combat Observer

Information copy to Commanding General, VI Corps without inclosures

2 Inels: Incl No. 1 (Combat Tips and Reminders) Incl No. 2 (G-2 Periodic Ereport, VI Corps)

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SECRET

Combat Observer : Auth: CG, CTOU EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS : Initials: 0778 UNITED STATES AREY : DATE 3 Jan 1948 Headquarters, VI Corps APO 46

SPORE : Auth: OG, STOUSA:

SUBJECT: Chserver's Report No. 47 (Pozit Fuze) (Battelion Training Program) (Duties of Battalion Commanders in Combat) (Rifle Platoon in Defense) (Deficiencies in Small Unit Infantry Combat) (Road Blocks) (The Five Fundamentals)

TO : Chief, Combat Lessons Branch, G-3, Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, United States

1. Pursuant to instructions which place me on duty as combat observer with VI Corps, the following report is submitted in triblicate.

2. Material for this recort was obtained by personal interview with Lt Col E. G. Carrey, Co. 312th FA Bn. (135mm How). 79th Inf Div; Major S. H. Gibbons, S-3, 79th Inf Div FA; Brigadier General Dough Wahl, Co. 79th Inf Div Arty; Capt E. A. Rathmann, S-5, 904th FA Bn. 79th Inf Div. and by contact with Brig Gen R. I. Stack, Asst Div Commander, S6th Inf Div.

3. Pozit (Proximity Fuze, 312th FA Bn. 155mm How: We used the Pozit Fuze to make a high burst registration. We picked a forward slope of a hill so that it could be observed from our CP's. We first fired the high burst for registration and then we fired all our night harassing fires based on that registration.

we fired all our night harassing fires based on that registration.
Following the registration with the Pozit fuze we tried to check
it with the M67 fuze but we were unable to get a registration with
that fuze. The M67 fuze just isn't any good. It is unsatisfactory.

Coinion: We think that the Pozit fuze is very good. We
had eight observers observing the shoot and all uniformly reported
that the Pozit fuze was excellent. You get a uniform height of

burst at the correct height. Another advantage is that when searching an area changes in range do not affect the height of the burst. The Pozit Fuze can be used with the impact fuze as follows: Fire one round of the Pozit fuze to obtain an air burst and the adjustment by using the impact fuse gives the correct range when modified by tabular values then shoot the Pozit fuse for effect. - Lt Col T. G. Carrey, GO, 312th FA Bn, (155mm How)

Note: Report on Firing of Shell M107 with Fuze T76E6. Sleth FA Bn signed by John I. Savorias, Major, FA, S-3, Sleth FA Bn.

The artillery believe that the Pozit fuze is excellent. The use of a point detonator with the fuze will increase its effectiveness .- Major S. H. Gibbons, S-3, 79th Inf Div PA.

The Posit fuze looks awfully good. I believe that there is too much restriction at the present time on the use of planes when using the fuze. No doubt but that these restrictions will be revised after we become more familiar with it.—Brig Gen Dough Wahl, CO, 79th Inf Div Artillery.

shoots as follows: Ist coopy of rds, range about 50 yds. Target village of Kapsweyer. She let 10 yd was about 50 yds over. We adjusted with the M42 fuzer the layer averaged about 15 yds in height. We had three duds a form high burst. We first fired at flat ground and their month the foret over houses. The height of the burst remained the barke. Put Flot: 90 rds, target flat open terrain with small lev t for 10 kg st 20 yds. Four dude, three high bursts, average height of the trees.



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Combat Observer : Auth: CG, ETOUS EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS : Initials: 47% UNITED STATES ARMY : DATE 2 Jan 1945 Headquarters, VI Corps

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Observer's Report No. 46 Prozit-Proximity-Fuze) (G-2 SUBJECT: Periodic Report)

Chief, Combat Lessons Branch, G-3, Headquarters, TO European Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 887, U. S. Army

1. Pursuant to instructions which place me on duty as combat observer with VI Gorps, the following report is submitted in triplicate.

Material for this report was obtained by personal interview with Brigadier General Carl A. Bachr, VI Corps Artillery Officer and by contact with 6-2 Section, VI Corps.

3. Pozit (Proximity) Fuse:

The 938th FA Bn (185 How) has had a chance to observe the effect of the pozit fuze. One31 Bec 1944 it fired a 89 round observed concentration on the enemy and excellent results was obtained. Only one dud out of 80 rds fired. The fuze is working very good when used with the 155 How. We are well pleased with it.—Brigadier General Carl A. Bachr, VI Corps Artillery Officer.

Note: Not sufficient observed fire by 105mm at this date to justify expressions of spinions. -P. T. H.

4. G-2 Periodic Report, VI Corns; See Incl No. One

PETE T, HEFFRER, JR Colonel, Infantry Combat Observer

Information copy to Commanding General, VI Gorps without inclosure No. One



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1 1 1 1 1 1 Combat Observer : Auth: OG, ETOUSA: RUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS : Initials: 272/ UNITED STATES AREY DATE 29 Dec 13:14 Headquarters, VI Corps : 1 : 1 : 1 : 1 APO 46

SUBJECT: Observer's Report No. 42 (Rumors) (G-2 Periodic Report, VI Corps)

TO : Chief, Combat Lessons Branch, G-3, Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 887, U. S. Army

1. Pursuant to instructions which piece he of the combat observer with VI Corps, the following report is submitted in triplicate. Pursuant to instructions which place me on duty as

2. Material for this report was obtained by personal interview with Colonel Joseph L. Langevin, 6-2 Section, VI Corps and Captain R. C. Slyter, 8-2; 157th Inf Regt, 45th Inf Div.

3. Rumors:

- Strasbourg Incident: (See Incl No. 1.)
- b. Air Drops of Parachutists; (See Incl No. 1.)
- 0. Rumon on River Grossing: (See Incl No. 1.)
- Dead American Soldiers: (See Incl No. 1.)
- False Rumor on Enemy Activities: (See Incl No. 1.)
- G-8 Periodic Report No. 185, VI Corps: (See Incl No. 8)

PETE T. HEFFNER, JR Colonel, Infentry Combat Observer

Information copy to Commanding General, VI Corps

2 Incls: Incl No. 2 (G-2 Periodic Report No. 135, VI Gorps)



Authority 88750

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Combat Observer HEADQUARTERS, VI CORPS APO 46

29 December 1944

1. In compliance with Memorandum for observers from Combat Lessons Branch, G-3, ETOUSA, dated 23 December 1944, the following information on rumors is furnished:

- a. Strasbourg Incident: Several weeks ago a loud speaker was used by the Germans east of the Rhine River opposite Strasbourg to inform the civilians in Strasbourg that the Germans were coming back. (Our arty fire silenced the speaker). Note: the above was a build up for the following rumor: Several days later the British Breadcasting Co. (better not use name unless exact text of broadcast can be ascertained) announced over the radio that the Germans had crossed in two places north of Strasbourg. This announcement caused quite a bit of consternation among the civilians and some vorry to our military units in that area. What had actually happened was that two small German patrols had crossed and had been driven back, some German prisoners were taken. The Seventh Army had to send a loud public address system to Strasbourg to quiet the people.— Colonel Joseph L. hangevin, GSC, VI Corps, G-2.
- Air Drops of Parachutists: Build up of rumor: It had become known in this area that German parachutists had been dropped behind the lines of the First Army. This command was warmed to be on the alert for similiar action by the Germans in this area. Reports came into VI Corps Headquarters that parachutes had been seen falling in this area. The units were warned to be on the alert and round them up. In the hunt for parachutes and men none were found. The rumors continued to spread and were exaggerated by being retold among the enlisted men. Reports of 15 parachutes falling during the afternoon 27 December 1944 were run down and found to be balls of antiradar window. Rumors were stated to have been started by AAA men who had seen shining objects falling through their field glasses. Effective action taken: the VI Corps G-2 Section included in their G-2 Periodic Report No. 134, dated 27 December 1944 the following: "Reports of 15 parachutes falling during the afternoon were run down and found to be balls of anti-radar window. This may account for a large percentage of our recent parachute alerts particularly as no parachutists or discarded parachutes have been located at this time. This should not imply that our watchfulness should be relaxed as the dropping of enemy agents is still considered a strong capability, however, all observers should make efforts to distinguish parachutists from window which appear similar at high altitudes on clear, sunny days. Whenever there is any doubt, observer should include in his report, altitude of drop, and any other pertinent information that would aid in evaluation." The above information furnished by VI Gorps G-2 Section was passed down to the EM by the lower units. -Colonel Joseph L. Langevin, GSC, VI Gorps G-2.
- Rumor on River Grossing: A short time back, about 17 December, a supposed to be French officer, 1st Lieut in a French officer's uniform told the Civil Affairs Officer in Raguenau that the Cembans were going to make a crossing of the Rhine River in force between Rembaneim and Offendorf. The Civil Affairs Officer carbed and notified VI Corps. The Civil Affairs Officer souldn't gift the name of the French officer.

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Corps instructed CIC to run the rumor down. No success. Corps immediately issued order as follows:

SUBJECT: Civilian Reports of Enemy Activity.

TO : Commanders, All Units

l. In the past serveral days this Headquarters has received from lower units numerous unconfirmed civilian reports concerning enemy's intentions, particularly reports of activity along the Rhine River. Efforts to verify the accuracy and reliability of these reports have failed primarily because the original civilian source of the information could not be traced.

2. Effective at once any civilian offering information of enemy's intentions or activity will be placed under protective custody and a report will be made by the most expeditious means to A C of S, G-2of divisions or to G-2, VI Corps.

The rumor caused the Corps some concern since it was started soon after the German attack against the First Army.

d. Dead American Soldiers: This rumor was being circulated by enlisted drivers of a unit attached to the 157th Inf Regt, 45th Inf Div. It spread rapidly throughout the Regiment.

Rumor: Two weeks ago a story reached our men in Lembach that one of our other regiments of this division had found two EM of their regiment in Lembach killed by civilians. That these two EM were found partially disrobed with evidence of having had or were prepared to engage in sexual intercourse. Further the rumor stated that seventeen American soldiers had been found dead killed by civilians, circumstances not given. Action taken: Reft S-2 of 157th Inf directed the Regt Civil Affairs Officer to question all of our units and attached units in our area and further to inquire through civilian channels the basis for such a rumor. His report stated that the only basis for such a rumor was the fact, or believed to be the fact, that three or four French soldiers had been killed in Strasbourg at the time of the occupation of that city by hostile civilians. So far as our own units were concerned there was no basis for the rumor. All of our units were notified that the rumor was false. Capt R. C. Slyter, S-2, 157th Inf Regt, 45th Inf Div.

A rifle platoon had stopped for the night to dig in their positions. Situation on flank was obscure. They had contact with a small enemy group to their front. The attached AT platoon was directed to place one 57mm gun in position in the area of this rifle platoon. The gun Sgt upon reaching the rear of the platoon was directed to stop his truck and to remain perfectly quiet and not make any noise that 50-60 enemy had just walked through the platoon position from the rear. Origin not known but was in the rifle platoon. Rest called the Bn, Bn called Co, and directed the CO of Co, to check and verify story, and find out why platoon had not fired at the Germans. Investigation showed that one man of the platoon had seen three of form enemy walk across front of the left flank with mess scar in they hands, and move down the alope in front of the position at the platoon leader for not immediately verifying such a story, and members of the condant were cautioned against exaggerated and false withments.

26-CONFIDENT

Authority 88355 Company Hava, Date 1978

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In our regimental SCP we require the name, and organization of individuals reporting. What was seen or heard, when and where. - Gapt R. C. Slyter, S-2, 157th Inf Regt, 45th Inf Div.

PETE T. HEFFNER, JR Colonel, Infantry Combat Observer DECLASSIFIED

Authority 887550

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SECRET CG, STOUSA: : Auth: Combat Observer MUROPEAN THRATER OF OPERATIONS: Initials: 0734 UNITED STATES ARMY DATE 22 Dec 1944 Headquarters, VI Corps APO 46

SUBJECT: Observer's Report No. 33 (Artillery Fire on Pill-box)
(Booby-trapping the Dead) (Cemetery Strong Points)
(H-2 Periodic Report, VI Corps)

: Chief, Combat Lessons Branch, G-3, Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 887, U. S. Army TO

1. Pursuant to instructions which place me on duty as combat observer with VI Corps, the following report is submitted in triplicate.

- Material for this report was obtained by personal interview with Brigadier Beahr, Arty Officer, VI Corps; G-2 Section, 14th Armored Div; Colonel Yeall, CO 411th Inf Regt, 103rd Inf Div and G-2 Section, VI Corps.
- A D conducted precision adjustment on a large pill-box with 105mm Hows using adjusted coordinates. He then adjusted (precision shoot) 8" Hows with T 105 fuze, scoring 3 direct hits penetrating the pill-box and flushing the Krauts, then, on prearranged signal, he brought down time fire of 105 Hows and killed 12 Krauts. - Brig Gen Beahr, Artillery Officer, VI Corps.
- 4. Booby-trapping the Dead: A booby trapped body of a dead German soldier was found in our zone north of Salmbach. It exploded when examined killing one of our soldiers and wounding two .- G-2 Section, 14th Armored Div.
- The German utilized the 5. Cometery Strong-Points: The German utilized the cemetery on the high ground NE of Climbach and made it into a fortified strong pint - Col Yeull, CO, 411th Inf,

north of Steinfeld as painted to look like houses. - G-2
Section, 14th Armore, Siv.

6. G-2 Periodic CONFIDENTIAL

> PETE T. HEFFRER, JR Colonel, Infantry Combat Observer

Information copy to Commanding General, VI Corps

Incl No. 1 (G-2 Periodic Report, VI Corps)



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Combat Observer
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
Headquarters, VI Corps
APO 46

SHORET
Auth: CG, STOUSA:
Thitiels: 0774
DATE 16 Dec 1944

SUBJECT: Observer's Report No. 84 (Employment of Tarks; Reployment of 106 Assault Gun; Leadership)

70 ; Chief, Combat Lessons Branch, G-3, Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 887, U. S. Army

1. Pursuant to instructions which place me on duty as combat observer with VI Corps, the following report is submitted in triplicate.

2. Material for this report was obtained by personal interview with Capt H. D. Persky, CO. Co. C. 47th Th Bn; Lt. Milton B. Dess (colored), 1st Pl Gc. A, 614th TD Bn (colored); and Lt Col John P. Blackshear, Ex Cff, 411th Inf.

3. Comments of a Tanker

a. Employment of tanks: In this type of country tank units should not be employed as companies but employed by plateons. On these narrow roads that we are operating over we can never employ more than three or four tanks at any time. (Note: Combat Observer comment: country and operation referred to above was in the area between Gunstett-Preuschdorg-Climbach on 13, 14, 15 Dec 1944. The terrain is hilly, woods, and the soil was muddy with many boggy places).

b. Employment of 105 Assault Gun: We use our 105 assault gun to knock down houses and OPs that smaller guns cannot take care of: - Capt H. D. Persky, CO, Co. O, 47th Tk Sm.

A. Security for Towed TDE: We are a towed Bn and we need tanks to secure the positions before we go into them. During the night money can't express how valuable the Infantry is to us. Once we get into position we can take care of the situation. - Lt. Milton B. Deas (colored), 1st Fl. Co A, 614th TD Bn (colored).

Company Commander, Co C, 614th TD, elected to personally bad a platoen of his company which was part of a task force attacking the town of Climbach. He was in the lead scout car and bucked up the remainder of his men and other along side his column. He stood up in the scout car (M SO) and spearheaded the attack until stopped by the fire of two direct fire German 88 guns which scored a direct hit on the scout car in which he was riding. He then managed, though severely wounded, to personally knock out a German bazooks nest at which time he obtined several other wounds. Sefore being evacuated he arranged for ammunition supply for his men and for the second in command to take over. This example of leadership naturally assisted the task force in capturing Climbach.— Lt Gol John P. Blackshear, Ex Off, 411th Inf (Commander of Task Force which attacked Climbach).

